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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Pollution of Krakow Water by Synthetic Fuel Plant at Dwory	DATE DISTR.	26 July 1954	
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1. A synthetic fuel plant was put into operation in late 1953 at Dwory, near Oswiecim (Q 51/Y 74), on the upper reaches of the Vistula River in Poland. The products of the plant are for the use of the Polish armed forces. This factory was built by the German occupation authorities during World War II and produced, among other things, fuel for guided missiles. The Germans partially destroyed the plant upon their retreat during the latter stages of the war. It lay unused for a number of years and was only recently rebuilt by the Poles.
2. Waste from the synthetic fuel plant is discharged without treatment into the Vistula. This has caused great hardship to the municipalities downriver, which use the stream for drinking purposes. Existing filter arrangements are inadequate to the task of rendering the water potable.
3. Tap water in the city of Krakow was reported at the end of March 1954 to be virtually undrinkable. The pollution of the water has caused much sickness and contributed to the overcrowding of the city's hospitals. A chemical analysis of the Krakow water revealed that it contained four percent phenol and a strong solution of chlorine.
4. A deputation of Krakow doctors petitioned the Government for a closing down of the Dwory plant or a correction of the abuse. This petition was turned down on the grounds that the Dwory plant was of critical importance to the defense effort.
5. The Krakow city government then arranged for the procurement of water from 65 wells. This measure cannot nearly meet the water needs of the city, however.

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